

# THE GATEWAY

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## Changes on the way for first-year English courses

University task force is exploring different options to improve writing competencies in English classes

MEGHAN POTKINS  
News Staff

Since September 2005, first-year English has been under the microscope as U of A students and faculty members alike are discussing its reform. An open forum held last week to examine 100-level English requirements and writing competencies at the University was just the latest effort from the University of Alberta's Writing Task Force to determine what changes need to be made, if any, to English and writing instruction.

**"I think there is a general sense that, partly because of things such as increased class size, we may not be able to provide the kind of intensive writing instruction that we have been able to in the past."**

DANIEL WOOLF, DEAN OF ARTS

The task force, created by Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf, was formed in response to a Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) report released back in April 2005 that acknowledged a widespread willingness to consider encouraging more departments and programs outside of English to offer writing-intensive courses.

"This 'opening up' to departments outside of English to handle writing instruction comes alongside increased concern over proposed changes to core Bachelor of Arts requirements. One of the proposed changes would be a paring down of the 100-level English requirements from six credits to three credits.

But task force co-chair Betsy Sargent suggested that this may not be the best solution for improving writing competencies in undergraduates.

"If faculty members are not happy now with student writing, what are the odds that they're going to be happier ... if students, instead of taking six credits of English, take three?" she asked.

Dean Woolf echoed these sentiments, emphasizing growing issues with the quality of writing at the undergraduate level.

"I think there is a general sense that, partly because of things such as increased class size, we may not be able to provide the kind of intensive writing instruction that we have been able to in the past," he said.

The Faculty of Arts has lost about 90 professors since government funding cuts in the early-to-mid '90s, while in that time there has been an increase of approximately 700 students.

The Dean also added that the issue concerns a wider constituency at the University than just the Faculty of Arts.

"It's how we teach writing at the University as a whole and what sort of expectations we have of students coming into first year, coming out of first year and how much writing is going on elsewhere in the University," he said.

With representatives from several other faculties and programs, including Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing, and Science, the task force is seeking to make broader recommendations regarding the overall instruction of writing at the U of A.

According to task force member and Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Mat Johnson, many other faculties have already begun addressing their own specific concerns with writing instruction within their own discipline. Like almost every other Engineering department, he pointed to Electrical and Computer Engineering, which has a three-credit English requirement.

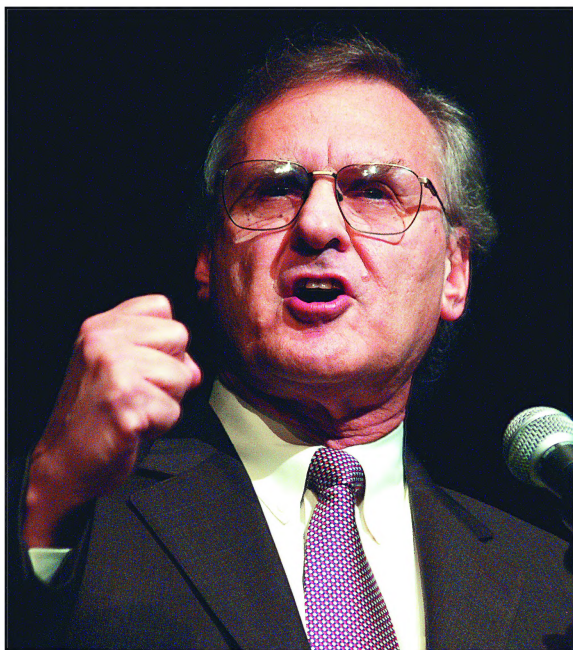
"But they [still] feel that they are not doing enough communication work, so they just started this year with a new technical communications course," said Johnson. "They recognize that in the past they don't think their graduates have been graduating with an appropriate level of communication skills, so they've implemented a new course, and that's sort of an internal solution to the matter."

Johnson added that the task force has set out to determine just what kind of changes might be necessary to improve critical thinking and communication skills in undergraduates.

"Part of what this task force is looking at is ... what is the purpose of having an English requirement? Is it really the best place to learn writing? Obviously, it's easier to apply your writing if you're applying it to your own subject matter," said Johnson.

Arts Students' Association representative and task force member Tim Schneider suggested that any recommendations the task force makes must keep the options of students strongly in mind.

PLEASE SEE ENGLISH • PAGE 2



STEP IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTION Stephen Lewis challenged a Horowitz crowd to be active global citizens. BUCKWEBER

## Leading nations must help struggling countries across the globe: Lewis

ROBIN COLLUM  
News Staff

Ensuring the human rights of all global citizens is achievable, Stephen Lewis told a packed house at the Myer Horowitz Theatre yesterday, but not without commitment from the international community.

Lewis, current United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and former Canadian ambassador to the UN, was at the U of A yesterday to give an International Week keynote address.

Following the human rights theme of this year's I-Week, Lewis spoke passionately on the pitiable state of human rights in Africa. He said countries and individuals have a duty to protect the basic rights of all people, emphasizing that western countries have betrayed Africans by falling through on their international obligations to provide aid.

"There is no point inhabiting this planet unless one tries to improve the human condition," he said. "If the G8 governments don't come through, [Africa] will never make it."

**"There's no point in inhabiting this planet unless one tries to improve the human condition."**

STEPHEN LEWIS

Lewis also spoke to students at a special discussion held for International House residents on Sunday night, answering questions on many of the same issues that he raised the next day in his speech.

"It's vastly important to recognize that [economic and social rights] are

contained in every single international covenant from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on down," Lewis said. "There is something grievous about refusing to recognize these rights."

According to Lewis, much of the blame for the appalling conditions that persist in Africa can be traced back to poverty, conflict and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"We're talking about levels of poverty that we can't even approximate in our wildest imaginings," Lewis said.

He put the onus on the western world to provide African nations with the resources they require to help their people.

"What is, in its own way, almost criminally negligent, are the constant promises by the G8 countries to reach 0.7 per cent of [gross national product] for foreign aid," said Lewis.

PLEASE SEE LEWIS • PAGE 3

## Inside

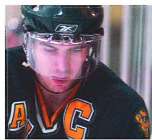
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## Where there's smoke ...

Should smokers be forced to light up off campus? Hear both sides of the issue in today's Point-Counterpoint.

OPINION, PAGE 6



## Bears eat up Huskies

The Bears hockey team completed an impressive sweep over Saskatchewan, the number one team in the country.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

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Linux Powerbook, xosoft's scanners, and a Nikon  
Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign  
is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector  
images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster  
images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which  
are viewed directly by readers to be more accurate in  
printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles,  
and weights of fonts: Times, Helvetica, and Arial. The  
Macintosh is the Gateway's sister paper. The Gateway's  
game of choice is Tetris and Scrabble.

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CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Amanda Ash

## DOORBELL DRAMA

At around 6:50am on Thursday, 26  
January, a male rang the doorbell of a  
house in the Garneau area. He explained  
that his daughter was having an asthma  
attack in his home across the street and  
that he needed \$9 to buy her a new  
inhaler. The generous neighbour gave  
him the money, and the man, who prom-  
ised to pay back the debt, never returned.A similar incident occurred around  
the same time that morning. A male  
rang the doorbell at another Garneau  
residence, asking the homeowner for  
an inhaler because his three-year-old  
daughter was having an asthma attack.  
The resident assisted the pleading  
male by offering an inhaler, but instead  
of readily accepting the aid, the dis-  
tressed man indicated that it was the  
wrong dose and insisted on borrowing  
\$9 for a new one. In the end, the suspi-  
cious male accepted the inhaler on the  
condition that it was to be returned in  
the resident's mailbox. The inhaler was  
not returned, and after discussing the  
incident with a roommate, it was deter-  
mined that the persistent male had  
come ringing earlier that morning.

## TOILET TROUBLE

On Thursday, 26 January at around

8:40am, Campus 5-0 received a com-  
plaint regarding a shady male character  
following a female into the washroom  
outside of the Fitness Centre. The creep  
left when she told him to get out, but  
upon exiting the washroom, the female  
encountered the stalker once again and  
convinced him to leave the premises.  
The male is described as Caucasian,  
5'7"-5'8", average build, grey hair and  
sporting a grey ball cap and grey t-shirt.

## STEALING FROM THE PLANT

On Friday, 27 January between 3 and  
4pm, two backpacks were stolen from  
the Powerplant. One of the packs was  
recovered from the washroom, but  
unfortunately, pieces of identification,  
credit cards and an iPod had been stolen.  
When the owner phoned to cancel the  
credit cards, there had already been  
numerous charges made to the account  
including liquor and gas purchases. The  
second backpack was also recovered  
with a cell phone and identification  
missing.

## THOSE TOOLS AREN'T FOR CARVING

At around 1am on Saturday, 28 January,  
patrol constables spotted a male loit-  
ering near the main doors of the LRT  
station. The restless wanderer was  
in the possession of a pair of chisels  
that, according to the suspicious male,  
were used for carving wood. The shift  
man was identified and found to have  
an extensive criminal record. He was  
arrested for trespassing and handed  
over to Edmonton Police Services  
for further interrogation regardinga break-in several weeks earlier. The  
investigation resulted in the recovery  
of stolen property, as well as the  
naming of two additional suspects who  
were eventually charged for a series of  
criminal offences including possession  
of stolen property.

## WHYTE NIGHT, UGLY MORNING

At around 3am on Saturday, 28 January,  
a student auxiliary officer observed a  
drunk male staggering outside the  
southwest area of HUB Mall. The inebri-  
ate stated that he'd been drinking and  
having a good time at Whyte Ave that  
he'd missed the last bus home. The  
drunkard, who had no University affil-  
iation, was later found to be in the pos-  
session of a flathead screwdriver, and  
was identified as having a warrant out  
for his arrest. He was detained and released  
into the care of the EPS.

## NAME GAME LOSER

On Saturday, 28 January, a male under the  
influence of alcohol and marijuana was  
arrested after he tried to steal the metal  
top of a garbage can from the LRT sta-  
tion. The mischievous male attempted  
to provide constables with a fake name,  
which he unfortunately couldn't spell.  
Officers suspected the man was being  
untruthful, not only because he couldn't  
spell but also because they recognized  
him from previous dealings; he was con-  
sequently trespassing and released into  
the custody of EPS. The fibber was later  
charged for breaching nearly all of the  
conditions of his probation, including  
the consumption of intoxicants.University  
wants report  
on first-year  
English by May

ENGLISH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Students are the ones paying for  
this, and you have to ask them what  
they want, because that's what's going  
to bring them to the University,"  
Schneider said.He went on to say that the task  
force is working under added pressure  
because of the May deadline for an  
interim report on their findings."We are really hoping that the first  
interim report that we have coming  
out in May is going to be consid-  
ered as part of the academic plan for  
the future, because that is when the  
resources are allocated," Schneider  
said.Dean Woolf added that any propo-  
sals made in the interim report might  
require some new funding and con-  
sideration in the budgeting of the  
University's next four-year planning  
cycle."This is a very timely occasion to  
be having this discussion because all  
the faculties, essentially every unit  
on campus right now, are engaged in  
helping to frame the next University  
academic plan."

## STREETERS

U of A students are circling a petition in the hopes of banning the use and sale of tobacco on campus.

If it were up to you, what would you ban?

Maureen Walsh  
Arts IStephanie Chow  
Education IVRob Mangat  
Phys Ed IVGregg Brain  
Phys Ed IVI would definitely have to ban the spit-  
ters outside, and the butt cracks every-  
where, people who don't hold their  
parts up with a belt. So I'd ban spitting  
and butt cracks. It's like, get a belt! It's  
just gross. I think that's it, other than  
high tuition. I don't think you can really  
ban that, though. It'd be totally nice if  
they could.I don't think we should ban anything,  
because something about university is  
expressing who you really are. So ban-  
ning something is censorship, in a way.Just smoking. I don't mind tobacco  
chewers or anything like that. Nothing  
else really bothers me. Well, black lip-  
stick... And no classes after 3:30pm.  
Night classes suck, too. That's when new  
sports highlights come on, and I really  
need to get home for that.I don't know, what else can we ban?  
Skateboards. Let's ban skateboards. We  
don't need skateboards. I don't know;  
there's nothing worse than smoking...  
Ban Bam classes. We need more sleep,  
and we need more time to party. It's  
dark. I could be hit walking across the  
street.

Compiled and photographed by Jake Troughton and Mike Kendrick



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# New MFA program hopes to help tongue-tied professionals spit it out

MATT FREHNER  
Photo Editor

They say that the average person's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Glossophobia, or fear of public speaking, affects as many as three-quarters of all people—often to the detriment of our careers and romantic endeavours—but Betty Moulton, a professor of drama and speech at the University of Alberta, has made it her mission to rescue us from our fears.

In the realm of theatre, Moulton helps actors get the most out of their voices, but she also works with business professionals to apply those theatrical tools to their everyday working lives. With next year's new Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in speech pedagogy, she'll be training people to do the same.

The first program of its kind in Canada, students will work closely with U of A actors and drama students on all aspects of oral communication, from breathing exercises

to intensive text analysis. Moulton hopes that the skills learned in the MFA program will equip graduates with the knowledge to work as voice specialists in every genre of the performing arts.

With this practical training in mind, the new MFA program will also work with the U of A's department of speech pathology in order to provide a broad scientific background for the classic theatrical tools. Students enrolled in the program will take a course in speech science in their first year of studies.

"They'll be learning all about the muscles and bones and cartilages, and how they work together to produce a healthy voice," Moulton said.

"I think a lot of artistic endeavours can have a bit of a suspicion of the medical side, and vice versa. The medical side says, 'What are you doing with images and things? You have to know the anatomy that you're working with,' so collaboration between the two is crucial."

However, the program's usefulness

extends beyond the theatre community and makes them accessible to the everyday practices of teachers, lawyers, doctors or businesspeople.

Moulton went on to explain that one of the strengths of the degree is its focus on strong public speaking skills in addition to theatrical applications.

"I think that in the business and non-dramatic world, a lot of people are trained in particular areas, and are very good at it, but then as they advance through the corporation they are called upon to present to their employees, they have a larger staff to work with, they have to make business presentations to possible funding groups, or they get into politics," Moulton said.

"So there are a lot of people all over society who need public speaking skills, and I believe that the foundation of a theatrical background keeps the creativity and personal touch in public speaking."

The two-year program, set to begin in September 2006, will initially accept two students.



NEAL WILDING  
**PACKED IN LIKE SARDINES** For those lucky enough to get a seat, Lewis engaged an attentive audience yesterday.

## Lewis challenges int'l communities to help improve the human condition worldwide

LEWIS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The refusal to make the target real, and thus to make it possible for the struggling developing economies to exercise their human rights on behalf of their citizens, is a culpability which lies with us," Lewis said.

To underline what he sees as the scope of the international community's failure, Lewis gave examples of the innumerable tragedies that face Africa.

He told the crowd about the young girls and boys in northern Uganda who are kidnapped by the Lord's Resistance Army and forced to become sex slaves or child soldiers, and the lack of response to genocide in Darfur.

"How is it that the international community that knows everything there is to know about what is happening in northern Uganda has never found it necessary to intervene?" Lewis asked.

"And I remember in Rwanda, after the genocide was over in 1994, the world said 'Never again!' And now we see what we really meant was 'Again, and again and again.'"

Lewis spoke most fervently, though, when relating how the AIDS virus has

brought Africa to its knees.

"In every single international convention, there is the phrase, 'Men, women, and children should have the highest attainable standard of health,'" he said. "If you have millions dying and the highest attainable standard of health is to treat them, how have you made that human right authentic?"

**"People of decent commitment, who care about the human condition, can do almost anything."**

STEPHEN LEWIS

The situation is especially dire for women and for orphans. Gender inequality in Africa means that women are much more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than men.

"I never imagined in my adult life that I would see the carnage that is being visited on the women. We are denuding parts of the continent of its

women, and it's an unrelieved disaster," said Lewis.

And when the women die, Lewis explained, they leave behind orphans, who are taken care of by their grandmothers, if they're lucky.

"The real heroes of the continent are the grandmothers," Lewis said. "It defies all the rhythms of life; they bury their own children, and then they look after their grandchildren."

Running through Lewis's lecture and discussion was a common thread, not exactly of hope, but of possibility. He offered no false promises, but emphasized that the heartbreak of HIV/AIDS in Africa, and the likely pandemics brewing in India and China, could be mitigated if the international community commits to helping human rights there.

"No one is asking the international community to impose any set of values or change," he said. "All one is asking from the international community is to support those in their own countries who are working so hard."

"People of decent commitment, who care about the human condition, can do almost anything."

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**Greenhouse effect killing tropical frogs**

ROBIN COLLIER  
News Staff

While students may be feeling the effects of climate change at home with this winter's mild temperatures, a U of A researcher has discovered that global warming is having more sinister effects in the tropics.

For more than 20 years, frogs in Costa Rica's famous cloud forests have been going extinct. An international research group, which includes U of A's Dr Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa, has been able to clear up the mystery and conclusively trace the species loss back to global warming.

"There's a very strong correlation between temperature and extinction," said Sanchez-Azofeifa. "Cloud cover is increasing, and the temperature in the morning is going up. It's basically a greenhouse effect in those forests."

The research group, led by Dr Alan Pound from the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve and Tropical Science Centre in Costa Rica, focused on over 100 varieties of harlequin frogs that were once found there. More than two-thirds of the species have since gone extinct, killed by a lethal fungus introduced many decades ago from Africa that can penetrate their skin. The fungus has existed in Costa Rica for a long time, but the temperature changes in the past several decades have expanded its range, intruding on the frogs' habitat.

"We looked at data of climate and frog populations, and nearly every substantial drop in the frog populations was when the temperature was unusually high," explained Sanchez-Azofeifa.

"These extinctions have become typical in the tropics," he added. "Not just in Costa Rica, but in Venezuela, Columbia, and other countries as well."

Costa Rica, despite being approximately the same size as Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park, holds 5 per cent of the world's tropical biodiversity, but many of those species are in jeopardy.

Sanchez-Azofeifa thinks that those who don't realize the impact of



LEAHNA BROWN

**SAD FROG STORY** Dr Sanchez-Azofeifa researches extinction in Costa Rica.

climate change should take this research as a wake-up call, because it shows how a small change in temperature can have huge repercussions for an ecosystem.

"As Canadians, we aren't really exposed to the impact of change on the atmosphere," Sanchez-Azofeifa said. "We're sheltered from the effects right now."

"Canadians say to themselves 'Oh, a change of two degrees in the tropics doesn't matter, it's hot there anyway,'" he said. "They don't understand that these systems are in equilibrium. A little change makes an important difference."

Sanchez-Azofeifa is worried that the story of the frogs will go unheard, and the lesson of their extinction lost.

"The story sadly isn't compelling enough, but the message is," he said. "The frogs are telling us they can't take the heat, but when it's just frogs and butterflies and salamanders, no one pays attention. What's going to take to tell us that global warming is important?"

Sanchez-Azofeifa is optimistic, though, about what students can do.

"You guys are a new generation, and the sense of environmental awareness is higher. Students need to become more aware of issues, send messages to their politicians," he said.

"Don't drive a huge truck to school all by yourself, maybe take the bus. Reduce energy consumption. It's these little things that if a lot of us do them, will add up and help."

**U of A students compete to engineer fastest concrete toboggan in Canada**

RACHEL MWESIGYE  
News Writer

Nearly three dozen enthusiastic U of A students, along with 400 engineers from 25 top Canadian universities and colleges, will bring their 300-pound toboggans to Québec this week for this year's edition of the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race (GNCTR).

In the largest engineering student competition in Canada, 25 teams will compete in an attempt to see which team has built the best concrete toboggan. This year, the competition will be held at the Gray Rock Ski Mountain in Mont-Tremblant, Québec on 1 February. A team from the University of Alberta will once again be in attendance—as they have since the competition began in 1975—and they're hoping for their second overall win, the first coming in 1993.

The student-run competition requires that each school build a concrete toboggan, which must follow certain criteria from the concrete mix design to race performance. The teams will be judged for the technical aspects of their sled as well as for their creativity and originality in coming up with a theme and exhibiting school spirit.

"One of the greatest things about our team is our team spirit; in recent years we've always placed first or second in the team spirit category," said Katrina Nibourg, assistant captain of the U of A GNCTR team.

Team "Tobogganatomy" is made up mainly of engineering students, but also has students from the faculties of education, science and arts. This year, the team chose the theme "Doctors and Nurses," in the hopes it could be broadly applied to all aspects of their competition, from elaborate costumes, to slogans, even decoration of the sled itself.

Students began the design of the sled in the summer and construction followed suit in October. Nibourg explained that the sled received extra technical improvements this year in light of some mishaps experienced by U of A team last year.

"Last year we had some problems making it all the way down to the hill on race day, so this year we're really focused on putting 100 per cent into all the technical aspects and really putting a lot of focus on trying out a lot of new and different things," Nibourg said.

Although Tobogganatomy has won

coveted awards for best team spirit, best costumes, best sled aesthetics and top speed in previous years, Nibourg believes the team's additional focus on the technical aspects of the sled this year will pay off on race day.

"We have a really good sled, it looks really good and we have high hopes that it's gonna go fast and gonna go straight," Nibourg said.

Teams will also get the chance to exhibit their sleds at the Centre des Sciences de Montréal, where judges will evaluate the technical aspects of each team's project.

"(The technical display) is always a lot of fun, because we have built a big display that works into our theme, and we can show off our sled," Nibourg said, adding that students spent an average of 80 hours on the project.

As the team sets out with the hopes of ruling the slopes with their technique, the competition offers more than the honour of a plaque engraving and a cash prize or two.

"There is definitely an atmosphere of fun. The point of going to competition is to interact and meet with students from other universities and get to know them and become their friends," said Nibourg.



# OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • Tuesday, 31 January 2006

## Rich students don't change the SU's obligations

"I'M GOING TO PUSH THE LEADERSHIP of the students to confront the reality that they represent all students, even the very wealthy ones for whom tuition, quite frankly, is not an issue."—U of A Provost Carl Amrhein, in the 26 January Gateway.

It's almost hard to know where to begin when our beloved Provost makes comments like this. While I can certainly appreciate that there are a limited number of ways he can defend our annual tuition hike, surely there are better ways to defend an increase than undermining a student body that has done its utmost to attempt to work with the administration, rather than just half-heartedly protesting tuition increases. But more on that later.

For now, how about we ask precisely what Amrhein thinks advocacy is? It's entirely fair of him to say that there are a number of students for whom money is not an object. I highly doubt these outnumber the ones who are working part- or full-time, or racking up sizable debts to be here, but they're bound to be out there. But the fact some number—even if it is a significant number—of people seem to have no problem with the status quo doesn't mean the SU should sit back and let those who are struggling get frier by ever-increasing tuition fees.

Furthermore, it's not as if the SU is demanding that the University start cutting staff and services just so a few more people can pay for some sort of watershed, half-rated product. It's easy to understand that sometimes it's better to pay more what you're getting—this is why I'm usually against tax cuts.

But the SU, this year's version in particular, is lobbying Administration to look for other ways to meet their bottom line, most notably by increasing the focus on the provincial government to chip in for tuition, not blindly demanding tuition cuts. I could understand Amrhein's frustration if he was being faced with nothing but a bunch of chanting idiots wearing costumes, but here he's essentially slapping a fairly amiable group of people in the face by suggesting they're somehow deficient in their job by not adequately representing the apathetic few who don't seem to care how much money they pour into a university education, whether the cost is justified or not.

If the SU really was suggesting significant cuts to services to lower tuition, the case could definitely be made that they're forgetting a significant portion of their supposed advocacy base; hell, this editorial would probably be lambasting them for their shortsightedness. But to say that the SU has somehow been delinquent in their duties as a student advocacy by stressing affordability isn't just shortsighted, it's insulting, and I don't even work for the SU.

There are no easy answers to the tuition question, but surely sniping at a group that has tried to work with you to find a solution isn't a way to solve anything. Perhaps Amrhein should come some of his pithy remarks for the government that cut postsecondary funding in the first place.

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

## Yes, people are dumb

LAST WEEK, SOMETHING MAGICAL HAPPENED at cinemas across the country. A movie of epic proportions opened in North America, and by God, it made an impact. That's right: this weekend, *Big Mamma's House 2* finished first at the box office.

On a more serious note, what in the fuck? *Big Mamma's House 2* got six per cent on Rotten Tomatoes, yet still managed to make \$27.7 million in three days? Holy shit, people. If you have to struggle to actually find a favourable review of a movie, it's likely not worth seeing. But it can't be that simple—hundreds of thousands of people can be duped into seeing a movie.

The only thing I can make of this phenomenon is that the long-rumoured reports are true: people are idiots.

MIKE LAROCQUE  
Arts and Entertainment Editor



## LETTERS

**UASUS doesn't deserve your money—so just give it to us, instead**

I would like to wholeheartedly agree with Rachelle Stone's letter of 26 January regarding UASUS ("UASUS doesn't even deserve to exist, much less student fees"). In my year and a half here at the U of A, I haven't so much as heard of a UASUS event taking place. I've never seen one advertised, and I've never heard anyone talk about one. This leads me to believe that they don't exist, or that they suck like a vacuum cleaner. Either way, I don't want UASUS getting their hands on my money.

However, I also realize that some students really enjoy giving away their money. For them, I would like to suggest an alternate way to squander \$2. Come visit the Undergraduate Association of Computing Science in CSC-24 and give your \$2 to us. Sure, it's a bit of a trek for the science students who have never been west of CAB, but in return for your \$2, we'll give you two pizza pans and a bag of chips. Or a can of mango juice and a chimichanga, if that's more your style. Then, we'll take your \$2 and use it to buy you appetizers at RATT on Thursday evening. Now, I'm no business student, but I'm pretty sure that UACS offers a better return on your \$2 than the nothing UASUS will give you for it.

ADAM WOLFE GORDON  
Computing Science Division

## Thanks, Troughton

When I saw the article "And I, for one, welcome our newly elected Conservative overlords" in the 26 January Gateway, I immediately felt a weight lifted. I almost lost my relationship for voting Conservative, to say nothing of how ostracized I felt for being under the age of 30 and not having the Conservatives. People like to label the Conservatives as homosexual-hating/America-loving bible thumpers, and I can't even begin to explain the irritation I experience with that sort of ignorance. I

quickly got tired of explaining that a Conservative government wouldn't be the end of the world.

Thank you, Jake Troughton, for hopefully convincing some people to the fallacies of certain Conservative stereotypes.

SAMARA BIRCH  
Arts I

## Thanks for protecting us, Kangaroo

As a non-smoker, I have to commend Ms Kangaroo for her decision to follow in the footsteps of great anti-tobacco crusaders, in particular Fritz Lickint (Re: "Student seeks campus tobacco ban," 26 January). Lickint coined the term "second-hand smoke" while researching tobacco's effects in Germany at the request of the Chancellor. In 1938.

I have done extensive research on the subject, involving a Google search. I managed to find a few that weren't so heavily biased that they actually had statistics for more than a couple of demographics. Apparently, you could expect as much as a 25 per cent increase in your risk for lung cancer if you were exposed to second-hand smoke. Gadzooks! 25 per cent! What is usually not mentioned is that an average chap's risk of developing lung cancer is less than 1 per cent. So, a 1.25 per cent chance of getting lung cancer if you live in a house that's blue with cigarette smoke. I wonder what the increase would be if you walked by a guy outside with a lit cigarette? Zero per cent maybe?

Ms Kangaroo and her mob of tobacco-reduction do-gooders really want is two-fold. In their own naive way, they think they're doing the campus a favour by treating us like children. Confusingly, as adults, we are able to make rational decisions. Four-pack-a-day smokers know smoking causes cancer, even if they don't believe it will cause cancer in them. Smoking is a choice, consciously made by individuals in our free society. If an individual wants to smoke, or starve himself to look thin, or pull his hair out in clumps, that's his own business.

Especially if he does it. In a way that doesn't effect anyone else. Like smoking outside.

Their main reason—the same

reason most people want to "save" the smoking public from an early and gruesome death—is that they don't like the smell.

I can sympathize with them on this point—though I won't help her bully the minority to get her way. I don't care much for the smell of cheap aftershave and perfume, guys in class with powerfully offensive body odour or pollution—which causes as much lung cancer as smoking—but we can't just go around banning them.

BENJAMIN WILKIE  
Chemical Engineering III

## We're smokers, not lepers—please don't discriminate

In response to the 26 January Gateway article "Student seeks campus tobacco ban" now, I understand that smokers are the minority here at the U of A (only 3.9 per cent of the University population), and I guess that means, as we are the minority, it should be possible for the majority to take away my rights as a human being. Forget being able to choose what I do with my body—I'll just let you, the non-smoking majority, run my life.

I live on campus and I smoke outside on campus. First you took away any indoor facilities. For me to smoke in, I understand that. The sum of the tuition paid by non-smokers amounts to much more than the tuition paid by smokers, so if you don't want any smoke inside your buildings, fine. I can deal with that and I will brave the cold and be happy about it. But what you're missing is this: I pay outrageous tuition just like all of you, and I pay good money to live on campus. I have the choice to smoke. Forcing me to walk blocks away from my home for a single cigarette is a terrible injustice.

You can tell me over and over again how unhealthy my lifestyle is. That's okay. It's my life to live and I should be able to live it in any way I see fit. I'm guessing that this petition will get the required number of signatures and I'll almost sure when the vote happens you fascist non-smokers will take away my right to smoke on campus. You do that and live in your own little utopia of

conformity and majority rules. The minority has no place in it and they should know better than to try to be ourselves. I salute you for being so capable of promoting injustice in a fight so heroic.

DREW HANSEN  
Arts I

## Why all the fuss? The 'Plant isn't that bad

After attending the U of A for the past year and never setting foot in the 'Plant, I decided to take the chance. An old friend and I recently did some catching up at the establishment, and to be honest, it wasn't that bad.

In the past year, there have been numerous complaints and opinions filed that claimed that the PowerPlant was overpriced and unenjoyable. I find these claims very untrue; the drinks and food cost just as much as a nightlily trip to BPs or even Brewster's. The food was pretty good, and believe me, if it wasn't a Thursday and I didn't live in the downtown, I would have stayed and tore one up. Also, I think the speed dating would be a great approach. Not saying that I'm a leper or that I look like the hunchback of Notre Dame—the hump is only a swollen gland—but I'd give it a shot. I'm sure that everyone knows you can't meet anyone at the bar, at least not anyone who is more than a nightlily love, so we should give the speed dating a whirl. What could it hurt? Last, go out and support the campus watering hole; maybe you'll see me vomiting or something.

ROB MCPHENISON  
Arts II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise harmful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

# Point-Counterpoint: What's to be done with smokers?

University students can make their own decisions

Reasonable people shouldn't try to kill themselves



JAMES  
STORRIE

Point

When I first heard of the proposed campus smoking ban, I must say, I was a little surprised. Not a lot surprised—a fair number of very stupid ideas come out of this campus every year—but still a little surprised. Didn't we have this discussion last year?

It wasn't quite the same discussion last year, though. Not really. The critical difference here is that smoking in the open air, unlike smoking in the PowerPlant, has no significant effect on any of you non-smokers. You know why it doesn't? Because people who are smoking outside are smoking outside. Not inside. The smoke goes up into the sky, see. It goes away. I know this is complicated, but keep listening.

I've flipped through the Internet's a bit and this isn't a new proposition; some genius tries to ban smoking every couple of years, saying that we should take an ideological stance in favour of healthy living. Healthy living Great. Here's an idea: why don't we take an ideological stance in favour of people on campus being rational adults who can make their own decisions? Before you nay-smokers get all caught up in your nay-saying, maybe you ought to consider the iconic force of babysitting. I,

for one, am not in favour of an official university policy declaring that students and faculty are somehow much less intelligent than the rest of Edmonton.

Now, I don't want to come off like I'm calling this a human rights issue, but those of you in the non-smoking majority should consider just whether or not this is a responsible use of your strength in numbers. Smokers smoking outside are not harming anyone: why would you want to go take a job at that? We moved our smoking outside, in the interest of fairness. Is it fair at all for the majority to dictate what we do in the privacy of our own lungs?

**The critical difference here is that smoking in the open air, unlike smoking in the PowerPlant, has no significant effect on any of you non-smokers.**

Mr Ostad, we didn't all just crawl out of our parents' basements. Many of us are mature adults capable of managing our own lives. I'm not surprised at all that one person on campus was stupid enough to call for the ban, but I am a little—just a little—surprised that so many supposedly educated and intelligent people are playing along.



RAMIN  
OSTAD

Counterpoint

Now, James, before you throw anymore of your "the intra-nets knows all" logic my way, I think you should hear me out. It's not that I don't like smokers—I have a lot of friends who inhale carcinogens. It's just that, quite frankly, your arguments have some serious holes in them—kind of like your lungs after years of tobacco abuse.

Besides the fact that saying we should use the power of the student body more responsibly sounds like a cheap deflection, this whole "I'm a mature adult" argument falls flat when you're, you know, knowingly killing yourself over time. Seriously, man, you're an alright guy. You don't have to keep doing this. Whatever it is, killing yourself is not the answer. But if you are going to keep doing it, then I'd prefer it if you didn't do it on my campus. While your cigarette smoke may be floating upwards, it's still contaminating the air that I breathe. Second-hand smoke—you know, that fact you completely left out of your "I'm a big boy" argument—is still a serious threat to people who, like me, don't wish to shuffle off this mortal coil. Especially people like me who have heart conditions, or those with asthma: you and your fragile 3.9 per cent messing with the air we breathe is just not cool.

Now, that may seem to be a selfish argument, but let's be realistic here: this ban really won't affect the shortened lives of you smokers all that much. There are plenty of stores to buy your death sticks near campus, not to mention plenty of open space conveniently near them. Also, depending on where you're walking, you can probably get away with smoking on the go. And if you're really adamant, there's a push to have smoking allowed on residence areas until 2008.

**Besides the fact that saying we should use the power of the student body more responsibly sounds like a cheap deflection, this whole "I'm a mature adult" argument falls flat when you're, you know, knowingly killing yourself over time.**

We both know this ban isn't going to stop you "educated and intelligent" 3.9 per cent from slowly killing yourselves. That doesn't mean that you have the right to take us with you. So, stop your whining, and get some help.

## THE BURLAP SACK

This very special sack beating goes out to the covetous jerkface who calls the Education Computer lab office home.

You see, I had just printed out an assignment in the lab and was in dire need of a stapler so that I might, you know, be able to hand my assignment in. So I ask this douché, as polite as can be, if I might use the stapler that's in plain view on his desk, and not in use.

With a smile that would have made Charles Manson nervous, the crotchety old fart replied, "No," and then proceeded to continue his game of solitaire as though I weren't there.

Now, I would have understood the refusal if he was busy, or if he was regularly swarmed by hordes of unprepared first-years needing staplers or if staplers sold for a thousand bucks a box, but none of those things were the case. He was just a jerk. Seriously, this dude was worse than Milton Waddams from Office Space. I'm surprised no buildings have burned down.

After a brief argument, I walked away full of rage, but far from defeated. For you see, Mr Stapler-whore, I will have my revenge. The gods were watching. There's karma for this kind of thing.

So hop on into sack, and bring your precious stapler, too. It can keep you company while I deliver the beating.

PETER WEST

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

# Get in. Go far. ▶▶

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FEBRUARY 6 - 11

Every day, we'll focus on a different area of career-related education. Learn about specific programs, how they link to industry and what to expect as a NAIT student.

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 6

**School of Business**  
NAIT Shaw Theatre • 7:00 p.m.

- Applied Banking & Business
- Business Administration
- Bilingual Business Administration
- Office & Records Administration
- Legal & Realtime Reporting
- Food & Nutrition Management
- Medical Transcription
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- Bachelor of Applied Business Administration – Accounting
- Bachelor of Applied Business – Finance

**School of Hospitality**  
Room X107 • 7:00 p.m.

- Culinary Arts
- Baking
- Cooking
- Retail Meatcutting
- Hospitality Management

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7

**Electrical and Electronics**  
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- Avionics Engineering Technology
- Instrumentation Engineering Tech.
- Electrical, Electronics and Biomedical Engineering Technologies
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Each program presented twice: 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Various room locations; consult website or call for information.

- Animal Health Technology
- Cytotechnology
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Lab Technology
- Denturist Technology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- EMT-Paramedic
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- Medical Lab Assisting
- Medical Lab Technology
- Combined Lab & X-Ray Technology
- Medical Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
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## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8

**Applied Building Sciences**  
NAIT Shaw Theatre • 7:00 p.m.

- Architectural Technology
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Construction Engineering Technology
- Engineering Design & Drafting
- Geomatics (Surveying) Engineering Technology
- Interior Design Technology
- Landscape Architectural Technology
- Golf Course Turfgrass Management
- Horticulture Technician
- Irrigation Technician
- Precision Applicator Technician
- Sportsfield/Parks Technician
- Turfgrass Equipment Technician
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**Mechanical and Manufacturing Technologies**  
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Room X105 • 7:00 p.m.

- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Engineering Technology
- Chemical Technology
- Forest Technology
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## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10

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## An open invitation to Ronald McDonald

McDonald's is the finest in fast food—so why doesn't our campus have one?



MIKE  
KENDRICK

Like most of you, I love food. The opinions of bulimics and backwards vegans aside, there's nothing quite as pleasing as a juicy, tender chunk of cooked animal. Furthermore, I love the mechanical processed delicacies offered on the menu at any McDonald's restaurant. I have yet to be disappointed when I eat McDonald's. In fact, they always deliver exactly what they promise: unhealthy, high-calorie, incredibly delicious fast food at a ridiculously affordable price. Since the inception of their McMeal menu, my wallet has been even happier, as I can now diversify my diet with a new meal every day of the week. So if a restaurant is theoretically so perfect, it forces the question: why is there no McDonald's within easy access of campus?

Before I even finish asking, I can already predict the responses from their respective camps. The health nuts will plead that university students already have a difficult time keeping a balanced diet, so what possible good would a McDonald's bring? The social-good-minded hippies will argue that an academic campus is hardly the place for such a mass-consumerist bulwark of capitalism as corporate McDonald's to locate. Even the masses of developing intellectuals will argue that McDonald's is "disgusting," and there are far better alternatives for a fast and tasty meal. To all of you, I say bosh! Flimshaw! How little you know! Allow me to expand your narrow minds!

To all the Nutrition Nazis out there, I say this. I've been a regular customer

of McDonald's for a large part of my life, and have only the merest signs of physical debilitation to show for it. I bite happily into a steaming hot Sausage & Egg McMuffin with the thought that there are no immediate consequences, save for having to find somewhere to dispose of the bag when driving. I'm loving the blissful life of a typical North American: apathetic, well-fed and with far more free time from not having to cook my own meal, so I can partake in extracurricular activities like watching TV and totally kicking your ass in *NHL '06*.

**Even the masses of developing intellectuals will argue that McDonald's is "disgusting," and there are far better alternatives for a fast and tasty meal. To all of you, I say bosh! Flimshaw! How little you know!**

As for you hippies ... oh, you delightful, dreadlocked, hemp-wearing disciples of Marx. You're out there making headlines at all the G8 protest riots, claiming you're "saving the world from itself." You're in our jobs and our classrooms, having emerged from your forests to make sure Jack Layton has an even harder time explaining to the old people why his campaign office smells like the Art teacher's room. And you're making sure that nary the slightest "mainstream" corporate establishment sets roots on our wholesome campus.

Thanks to you, I have to wait in line at the Tim Hortons in CAB, because

the other 27 coffee places at the U charge eight bucks for some gourmet dark-roast Free Trade Guatemalan coffee beverage so that you can feel "morally righteous" while you sit and discuss philosophy with your comrades. But you know what? I have no problem with spending my money and time on a supposedly "evil" capitalist agenda to get a Quarter Pounder with Cheese if I have the urge. I'm far too jaded at this point to think that I can make a difference by voting with my wallet. Hell, I can hardly make a difference by voting in the Federal election. If McDonald's wants to put up a restaurant, they'll damn well put up a restaurant wherever the hell they want, and deciding that eating animals is wrong will only force them to add more options to their superb "Healthy Choices" menu.

Look, just admit it. You want a McDonald's. Campus needs a McDonald's. There's something so inviting about seeing those golden arches poke above the horizon after a long journey, welcoming you to the promised land of milkshakes and honey mustard McNuggets. The thought of those succulent beefy patties warms your insides in ways that no Wendy's or Burger King can. Those golden fries erupt from their red cardboard homes, each one a delicious little flavour sponge, not to mention excellent hangover food. And if you can think of a better place to get a hot, tasty, meat sandwich with all the fixins' for less than \$2, please, tell me.

This isn't to say that I'm not content with existing campus eateries. I simply feel that for all of the above reasons and more, it's worth getting a McDonald's close to home. Embrace your inner sloth and submit to your lazy side's urge for so-called "fast food." But if you'll excuse me, I'm about to begin the long trek over to the location on 109 St. Bring your tounies. It's Big Mac day.

## DO YOU SUFFER FROM SEVERE PREMENSTRUAL SYMPTOMS?

Severe premenstrual symptoms can interfere with your life; affecting your work, family and social activities. If you suffer from various symptoms like sadness, irritability, rapid mood swings, and anxiousness before your period... you could be suffering from **PMS**.

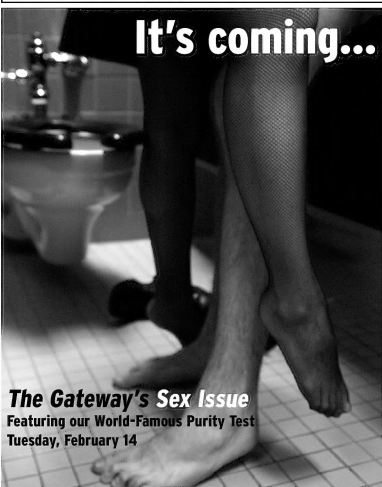
The **Psychopharmacology Research Unit** at the University of Alberta is looking for women with **severe** premenstrual symptoms to participate in a research study testing an experimental drug for the treatment of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder



For more information  
**Call 407-3331**

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# It's coming...



## The Gateway's Sex Issue

Featuring our World-Famous Purity Test  
Tuesday, February 14

## A party system could rejuvenate student politics



ROSS  
PRUSAKOWSKI

The Liberal party is in shambles, and is about to cast about for new ideas, new blood and some much-needed new vision so that it can revitalize itself and once again offer a viable alternative to Canadians. Every political party is occasionally forced to take a hike in the political wilderness, but almost without fail they emerge better, stronger and with new ideas to add to the public discourse on the direction our country will take.

Given the centrality and efficacy of parties to the democratic process at the federal and provincial levels, it's astounding that student politics goes to such great lengths to shun such a successful and essential part of our democratic system. This is a tragedy, since there's no other level of government that would benefit more from the widespread inclusion of political parties than our beleaguered Students' Union and Students' Council.

While most of us will get to cast ballots for the executive and council elections in the next few months, the names on them will be foreign and their credentials—aside from who can design a slick poster—nonexistent.

Year after year students have elected our representatives blindly, with no real way to recall or punish them if they're ineffective or mediocre.

This means years where the SU Executive and Council are filled with useless blowhards interested only in collecting experience lines for their resume at the expense of furthering student issues. Parties could change all this and ensure that an unproductive Executive or Council would be the exception, rather than the rule. A permanent party system where the parties aren't put at a financial disadvantage compared to independent candidates—unlike the current states that do discriminate, and are essentially one-off ventures—would provide students with a reference point. It would also provide students with a set of clear, competing visions and plans for where the organization that taxes and represents us could go. This would mean that the students we elect to represent us would be given clear signs of their constituents' desires.

Additionally, parties end up framing issues and courses of action, and would select candidates that shared these views, thereby ensuring that students would no longer have to play roulette to get representatives whose actions and plans are in accord with their election promises. If the voters are dissatisfied with a particular candidate, they'd have the party to hold accountable, even if that particular

candidate doesn't run again. This would add yet another body with a vested interest to the process, which would put pressure on candidates to stay true to their promises, lest the party be forced to pay for their actions.

What's more, parties would provide an access point to the political system for people wanting to get involved but who don't know how. Parties could also choose which candidates to run for different positions, and could bring in other voices that might otherwise have been lost to frustration through trying to unravel the Byzantine world of the SU and student politics.

Last, student political parties by nature would be interested in trying to maintain themselves, and would actively work to attract attention, people and new ideas to politics which would ensure that the parties are attuned to the ever-changing needs and demands of the student body.

Given the current state of the SU and student politics, where long-term vision and focus is lacking, allowing the establishment of political parties would provide some new life to a moribund system. At the very least, adding political parties would bring the existing SU executive and council political system in from the Canadian political wilderness, and would set it down next to the federal and provincial governments as a shrewd system of governance.

## ARE YOU STRESSED OUT? WORRYING TOO MUCH?



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Psychopharmacology Research Unit at  
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# SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Tuesday, 31 January 2006

## Hockey Bears topple top-ranked Huskies

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Staff

It may only be the end of January according to the calendar, but March after watching the series between the Golden Bears (16-4-2) and University of Saskatchewan Huskies (15-6-3) on the ice this weekend. With four points, first overall in Canada West and likely home ice advantage throughout the playoffs on the line, some intense, post-season-calibre hockey that delighted a full Clare Drake arena all weekend was the result.

"There's a healthy rivalry between these two teams and there's a healthy respect for them. When you get into games where it's a playoff atmosphere, it's good to see that the guys really played well," said Bears coach Eric Thurston, after his team swept the Huskies in a pair of 3-1 games and reclaimed their customary place atop the Canada West standings for the first time this year.

**"[Bears assistant coach] Dan Bouwmeester told me Friday that I'm not on this line to look good, I'm there to stand in front of the net, so I just kept going to the front of the net and hoped for the best."**

JOFF KEHLER  
BEARS LEFT WING

The result was a devastating setback for the Huskies, who came into town up three points on the Bears, ranked first overall nationally and looking to lock up first place and make Alberta come through the Rutherford Rink in Saskatoon in the post-season. Instead, Saskatchewan left having played two more games than the Bears and down one point in the standings, meaning that they'll likely need some help from other Canada West teams if they're to finish first.

"I guess in retrospect [this weekend's games]



**SHOW STOPPER** Saskatchewan put up a fight on both nights, but the Bears pulled off an impressive sweep of the country's top-ranked team.

are huge right? We came here three points up and in a battle for first place overall and we left with nothing," said Huskies head coach Dave Adolph. "I give credit to the Bears. I think they played even better tonight than they did Friday night. We needed a bounce and didn't get it this weekend and they got three of them; and when two good teams play that's usually the difference."

Despite the identical scores, the two games couldn't have been more different. On Friday, both teams played a tough, physical game, combining for an uncharacteristic 44 minutes in penalties. It wasn't until the next night that the Bears and Huskies sparkled on the ice and showed why

they were ranked two of the top three schools in the nation. While the netminding at each end of the rink was exceptional, it was Bears' forward Joff Kehler, who potted three goals in the series, who led the Bears to victory.

"Every single goal of mine, someone was giving me the puck, and I was just standing there flat-footed," said Kehler. "[Bears assistant coach] Dan Bouwmeester told me Friday that I'm not on this line to look good, I'm there to stand in front of the net, so I just kept going to the front of the net and hoped for the best."

With the sweep, the Bears have now won the last five meetings with the Huskies in Edmonton

and are clearly establishing a home-ice and maybe even psychological advantage over Saskatchewan that could be crucial come playoff.

"We see it when we play Calgary, where they almost have the mentality where they can't beat us," said Bears assistant captain Chris Ovington.

"It's definitely a factor with [Saskatchewan] too, after winning these games here and now putting it in their heads that we can beat them for sure."

Given that the Bears and one other team from the Canada West will advance to the University Cup, that advantage is likely to play a part when the national championships hit the ice at Clare Drake in March.

## Fifth-year Golden Bear Wallin does whatever it takes to get wins



**TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM** Justin Wallin (right), makes big sacrifices on the ice for his team.

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Staff

Throughout the course of a season, there are a series of character-building moments that players and teams as a whole go through. The Golden Bears' two-game sweep of the top-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies this past weekend was certainly one of these moments. However, while trying to respect the collective feat that was the weekend, there was another moment of character establishment and role fortification for Bears fifth-year co-captain Justin Wallin.

Wallin, who centred a line with wingers Richard Hamula and Scott Henkelman for the majority of the series against the Huskies, showed the number one team in the nation just how hard it can be to score against a Bears team that can be defensively stifling. The trio was able to keep the high-powered Huskies top line of Dean Beuker, Brent Twordik and Matt Girdling virtually off the score sheet, as the line only managed one goal through the weekend.

"Wallin is a such a steady player. He plays both ends of the ice really well, he's a leader and a quiet guy who speaks volumes on the ice for us," Bears head coach Eric Thurston says of his humble co-captain.

"He reminds me of Ron Francis when he was in Pittsburgh; he can make the passes, be a second-line centre, play against the top lines,

kill your penalties and do what ever he has to do for the team to win."

Wallin is held in high regard not only by his coach, but by his teammates. Linemate Richard Hamula described Wallin as a steady two-way player and the consummate linemate.

"He can play both ends of the ice, he chips in when you need him to and he takes care of his own zone first. He's never in the wrong spot; he keeps everything simple and he makes our job a lot easier."

Though Wallin has the ability to bulge the twine, with 106 career CIS points to his credit, he still puts a high value on playing defensively.

"I see myself as an all-around player, but there are certain times when it has to be defence first," he says.

Wallin's quiet persona has often allowed him to fly under the opposition's radar, which has paid off for him when his speed and hitting abilities have caught teams by surprise through his career. The fourth-year business student shies away from the spotlight, though, preferring to be a contributor to what he's hoping will be another season that ends with his hands back on the University Cup in March.

"I've enjoyed my time here immensely," he says. "I've got a lot of great memories of what's happened so far. Hopefully, I can finish my varsity career with another championship."



## Athletics department wants US competition for hockey team

University athletics director lays down challenge to top NCAA programs to scrimmage in Edmonton

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Staff

Inspired by the success of the annual CanAm volleyball tournament that routinely draws some of the top teams from across North America, the University of Alberta athletics department threw down the gauntlet and challenged NCAA division-one hockey teams to help them create a similar event on the ice in the fall or at Christmas. However, so far, not a single NCAA team has picked up the University's challenge, and it looks unlikely that the competition will get off the ground for 2006.

Unlike in volleyball, where CIS schools can generally offer more scholarships and provide more competitive programs and leagues for their recruits, NCAA hockey teams are wary of facing off against CIS schools, who they're in direct competition with for players. As Saskatchewan Huskies head coach Dave Adolph noted, continual losses by US schools in tournaments against CIS schools could make the NCAA route less attractive and push kids into the Canadian Hockey League, which is where CIS schools draw much of their talent from.

"It's a huge opportunity to promote CIS versus NCAA, but NCAA doesn't want any part of it. They don't want to send their good teams like Minnesota to play in a neutral situation and then lose, because they feel they're competing against us for athletes," said

Adolph. "We used to have a tournament at Christmas in Saskatoon called the Chill Out and our mandate then was to try and get one or two US schools as much as possible.

"But as we continued to have success as a program, the top ten or 15 NCAA teams dropped off. They wouldn't come to our tournament and we started having to get middle-of-the-road teams and even had to look at division-two teams to fill the void."

Despite pessimism about the opportunity to draw high-calibre NCAA schools, and the fact that US programs can generate more money playing in Stateside tournaments during the pre-season or Christmas time, athletics director Dale Schullha remains optimistic about the prospects for creating the CanAm Challenge.

"We're putting the challenge out there and hopefully the NCAA will hear that and know that we're serious about getting their teams here," said Schullha. "We know that we're going to have to spend some money to bring these teams in and we're going to have to get some guarantees just like they have to pay us to go down to the States.

"This has been talked about for a long time, but we're really never taken hold of it and said we're going to make it happen. We're going to do our damndest, we're prepared to put the money on the table, get the teams here and we're just hopeful the NCAA takes our challenge and come our way."

## Major announcement: Gateway editor to date Jolie



CHRIS  
OLEARY

Sports  
Commentary

I'd like to thank you all for being present today to read this announcement. Just a quick reminder that the Gateway runs most Tuesdays and Thursdays and that these issues are always free of charge.

With the formalities out of the way, let's get down to the reason I've brought you all together today: I'd like to formally announce my intention to date Hollywood starlet Angelina Jolie.

While I could go on and on (and on) about Ms. Jolie's endless physical blessings, then make mention of her generous nature and say that her inner beauty surpasses what's on the outside, and that's really why I love her, I won't—mostly because my announcement lost its thunder once you realized this didn't really involve Angelina Jolie.

It sucks to have your hopes raised by something like the potential news-making headline that pulled you into this article, only to have them slowly smashed into bits with my anti-climatic declaration of love for someone who isn't returning my calls, doesn't it? Don't sugarcoat your answer; I know it sucks, because the same thing happened to me and a room full of local media-types this past Friday at a press conference held by the University's athletics department.

Last week, the University started sending out e-mails to Edmonton's

sports media outlets, advertising a press conference that would feature a major announcement in regards to the Bears hockey team. As the week progressed, the words "CanAm Challenge" were thrown into the mix. Perhaps foolishly, I leapt to the conclusion that we'd be welcoming some NCAA competition to campus at some point next season for a Canada-vs-US showdown that's similar to what the Bears volleyball team puts on every fall. I, for one, was excited by this thought; I'm always up for a good hockey game.

**Maybe, as it has been suggested in the past, the NCAA's top programs are worried about losing face if they were to come here and drop games to the CIS teams that they profess themselves to be better than.**

Unfortunately, the press conference turned out to be a televised version of what was going on in my head—at this point and time, the Bears hockey CanAm Challenge is a little bit more than some brainstorming and optimism on the part of the University, who've yet to have an American team commit to visiting E-town to play some exhibition hockey.

So why the press conference? Why the week worth of hype and buildup, only to have it amount to what essen-

tially is a broadcast version of the athletics department talking to itself?

Maybe, as the University's athletics director Dale Schullha says, it's a way to show these American schools that the University is serious about having them come here. Maybe, as it has been suggested in the past, the NCAA's top programs are worried about losing face if they were to come here and drop games to the CIS teams that they profess themselves to be better than. There could be a number of reasons why the NCAA isn't jumping at the chance to play CIS schools, the majority of which CIS should feel slighted by; will a press conference that shows the Bears' willingness to host these teams change anything? I don't think so, but the only way I tell.

I mean, in the same token, I'd very much like to start dating Angelina Jolie. However, unless she's leaving her adopted kids at home with Brad Pitt for the weekend and has a flight booked to come to Edmonton, should I be running a headline calling this a major announcement? Unless I've swayed Angelina to fly up here sans-Pitt, I'm not making a show-stopping declaration here.

As the CanAm volleyball tournament and a number of other exhibition matches against foreign competition throughout the year demonstrates, our athletics department is more than capable of putting together some top-notch international competition. There's no doubt that they're doing everything they can to bring the same excitement from the court over to the ice in the coming years. Hopefully the next time they call a major press conference, they'll have something to announce.

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Canada

## Rush games a blue-collar carnival, but here to stay

Classic rock, in-your-face personalities and scantily clad women a big sell



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports Commentary

Looking back in the annals of Edmonton sports history, only two professional teams have managed to stand the test of time, attract a sizable following and thrive in this supposed "City of Champions." However, once you look past the Oilers and Eskimos, there are a litany of dead franchises that just couldn't find a niche in this sports market and eventually withered away, proving that there just isn't enough demand in this city for sports that aren't in either the CFL or NHL.

Given this track record, when the expansion of the National Lacrosse League to Edmonton was announced, there were more than a few skeptics that expected another team would soon be adding its name to the list of departed franchises, especially given the fact that the NHL season coincides with the NHL's.

However, it seems that the Edmonton Rush have learned from the mistakes of previous teams and have clearly defined the market they're aiming for—the city's pick-up truck-driving, K Rock-listening, Edmonton Sun-"reading," blue-collar males and their adolescent sons. While it's still early in the team's tenure, it seems as though they've found the secret to success in Edmonton, with the formula being equal parts loud music and

junior high-level sex appeal.

Instead of a wholesome night out with the family, the Rush have created a blue-collar playground and further narrowed their appeal by selling cheap student tickets at NAIT and Grant MacEwan, but not making them available to those at the U of A.

When given the choice of watching a Bears game at a discount or having Nickleback tracks pumped out at a decibel level usually associated with a jet taking off, their audience targeting doesn't hurt too much. Add in the fact that the crowds seem to embrace the classic rock styling of music and enjoy the hearing loss associated with incessant playing during the action, and I'm actually glad that they've excluded U of A students and played to a blue-collar base of support.

Rush supporters are likely the only group of people that can be assaulted by the annoying stick of some annoying radio DJ, whose insight into the game consists of describing an opponent's colours being "red, white and yellow" or urging two girls on the kiss cam to smooch. Not exactly high (or even low) comedy, but the crowd laps up every moment of it anyway. Their frenzy is only added to when the signature Edmonton Rush chopper makes an appearance, or the team scores a power play goal and someone is sent home with a free wheel alignment.

The team deserves credit though; they've realized that music and automobiles aren't enough to draw the fans they want through the turnstiles for an entire season, so they've tried to add something more to the games

by subtracting clothing. At every convenient break moment, the Edmonton Crush dance team is trotted out to strut their stuff, wearing less fabric than hand towels would cover up and using dance moves that look like a highlight reel from a strip club or rap video.

Finally, just to ensure that the sexual content doesn't ebb too low, forcing fans to actually watch the lacrosse action, the team brings out another crowd favourite—sultry women trying to out-tramp each other for a chance to appear in *FHM*, the ultimate form of blue-collar high culture. It's a contest that's proven to be an audience pleaser so far, keeping the crowd entertained and the families away, something that would normally kill an upstart franchise.

However, given that the Rush have managed to pack in more than 11 000 fans a game for their first few games, it's hard to be too critical of their efforts to attract a certain crowd, because what they're doing is working. While the approach they're taking is likely to keep them off the scrap heap of Edmonton sports franchises, the Rush and the NHL won't truly join the Oilers and Eskimos as a leader on the city sports scene until they can attract a broader fan base. Only through toning down the music and ceasing to pander to the sexual urges of the average 14-year-old will the Rush be truly successful. Until then, though, they can take solace in the fact that unlike so many other teams before them, they have a chance to become a fixture in the market and ensure that the blue-collar crowd will always have a squad to support.



**GOLDEN TOUCH** The Pandas field hockey team shook off some winter rust at their invitational tourney this weekend.

JOHN NAULT

## Bebop's rock steady with innovative electronica show



### Bebop Cortez

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JESSICA WARREN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With the exception of on-special burgers of questionable quality, \$2.67 can't really buy a lot these days. But for Edmonton's Curtis Ross, aka Bebo Cortez, it was, as the total cost of recording his album in his living room, his gateway into the production of a full-length album that's gaining increasing rotation on college radio. Originally begun as a side project from his other band, The Frosted Tipz, Bebo Cortez is stealing the hearts of listeners with his genre-bending style of electronica.

"Playing electronica wasn't a conscious thing for me," says Cortez. "It was more just wanting to be able to record the music that I was hearing in my head, and the easiest way to do that was just to play everything out. By doing that it kind of just became electronica."

As a guitar player, Cortez has affection for "organic" sounds, a fondness that is also displayed in the natural progression he's made from band member to frontman. Insisting on the presence of live instruments at his shows—usually played by members of the Tipz—Cortez has made some deliberate moves to make his live experience more than a man with a laptop. Given this planning, it's surprising that his 2004 album, *The Romantic Panther Commander*, came about as the result of almost arbitrary events.

"At first I didn't even know it was going to be an actual record," recalls Cortez. "I'd been recording songs all the time, and I had little snippets of sounds and I'd try to make things from them, and a friend listened to them and he said they'd go really well on an album. So that sort of started the wheels turning, and I

thought maybe I should get a record going. It ended up shaping itself. I'm a really big fan of good albums—I'm a music nerd and I like albums that are consistent all the way through and that are just good pieces of art."

However, with many electronic artists putting emphasis on the swinging of hips rather than the challenging of intellects, Cortez is seemingly a step ahead of the game. Forging the "plastic" sounds of a lot of house music, Bebo's album fuses jazz, funk and even heavy metal to question preconceived notions of what electronic music can incorporate. The fact that Cortez uses a live band and makes his presence onstage known helps him invigorate crowds and challenge many people's perceptions of electronic music.

"There are some really amazing things within electronic music that actually have a lot of brains. I think good art is good art, and its goal is to make you feel and think, no matter what genre you are, and if you're honest and you have soul, then you're going to be able to come across to an audience."

Cortez' honesty and musical soul are obviously being seen outside of Edmonton. Added to his status as a rising hometown star is the idea of touring Canada with The Frosted Tipz, a way to promote his acts even further while ensuring Cortez has an acceptably produced live show. With the combination of commercial success and horizon-expanding travel, it's easy to see Cortez as a future proud Edmonton export, but Cortez insists that will not be the case.

"There's a huge support network in Edmonton, and the scene here is actually really vibrant right now," says Cortez. "Edmonton is probably the best it's ever been as far as the music scene goes. There's some really good music coming out of here right now, I find, so it's a really healthy place for me to be. And I don't really want to be part of a brain drain where everyone who gets a little bit of success just takes off. It'd be kind of nice to be able to put Edmonton on the map."

## Mediocre Nanny McPhee lacks direction, 'Colin Firth action'

### Nanny McPhee

Directed by Kirk Jones  
Starring Emma Thompson and Colin Firth  
Now Playing

AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Typically, light movies usually have light themes that don't get overly complex as the movie progresses. The film might be about magic or adventure, but it's a reasonably straightforward proposition from beginning to end. The problem comes, however, when a movie doesn't quite pick its category, winding up instead in a no-man's land that leaves you feeling that the film you just watched only amounted to a lacklustre version of other, better films. Such is the case of *Nanny McPhee*, a pleasant, enjoyable movie that, while not painful to watch, still leaves you feeling that it could have been better.

A motion picture adaptation of the *Nurse Marilda* books written by Christanna Brand, *Nanny McPhee* follows the harsh and tumultuous lives of Cedric Brown (Colin Firth) and his seven children. After the death of his wife, Mr Brown finds himself in need of alternate means of care for his children, allowing himself to work at the local funeral parlour to make ends meet. The children, missing the presence of their mother and unhappy with the absence of their father, take their aggression out on each of the nannies—17, to be exact—that are hired.

When every possible nanny is tortured and consequently driven away by dozens of mischievous tricks and ingenious pranks, Mr Brown is left in a jam—that is, until Nanny McPhee (Emma Thompson) shows up on his doorstep. Nanny McPhee takes control of the

topsy-turvy household, attempts to straighten out the misbehaved children with the help of her magical walking stick, and even teaches Mr Brown a lesson or two about dealing with difficult life situations.

*Nanny McPhee* is both a charming and enchanting film that thankfully doesn't follow the beaten path that leads to talking animals and mystical places. Emma Thompson and Colin Firth successfully bring their lovable characters to life—an impressive feat given they're both capable of quite serious roles—with their natural charm appealing to both young and old audiences. The children in the film also tackle their roles professionally, avoiding any overdone actions or overly cute witticisms.

While the story itself is generally well-written, several parts of the movie still manage to flat flat. For a British film, the humour is a bit on the dull side, mostly relying on food fights and worm sandwiches to evoke—or at least attempt to evoke—chuckles. In addition, the film's attempted commentary on remarriage is weak, and slightly on the odd side, especially since Mr Brown is absurdly required by an aunt to marry again within a month of his wife's death, just so he can continue receiving monetary aid. Not only that, Mr Brown himself seems to be battling some creepy psychological issues when he pretends his wife is embodied in a pink armchair and carries on full-fledged conversations with her. Overall, the weirdness fails to arouse any amount of adult curiosity.

Everyone loves a happy ending, and indeed, *Nanny McPhee* provides one. However, considering we've all seen Firth in his numerous other romantic films, it's a shame that any sort of physical romance is skipped over. Colin Firth isn't in the movie to draw in the kids, and not only will his diminished romantic roleirk



some female viewers, but it also poses a financial obstacle: when you fail to feed the paying masses any Colin Firth action, they simply won't bring their little minions along to see the film.

As long as you can handle the fact that the

movie isn't as magical as *Harry Potter* or as romantic as *Pride and Prejudice*, Nanny McPhee might not be such a waste of time after all. Just make sure you get your fill of Quidditch and Mr Darcy before the show.

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Postgraduate

What's in the middle? The *Right* stuffBetween the covers of *Rescuing Canada's Right* is a game plan for Conservatives*Rescuing Canada's Right:  
Blueprint For a  
Conservative Revolution*Written by Adam Daifallah and  
Tasha Kheiriddin  
John Wiley & Sons  
On sale nowPATRICK ROSS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

To put it bluntly, the last decade or so has been hard on Canadian conservatives. They've been seen as out of ideas and out of touch, and up until about a week ago, out of power. Now with a minority government, the new book from Adam Daifallah and Tasha Kheiriddin, *Rescuing Canada's Right: Blueprint for a Conservative Revolution*, seems to be right on the mark.

To many in Canada, the word "conservative" has become a derogative term—something Daifallah and Kheiriddin know well, at one point making a brief reference to Daifallah's experience at being called a "little Nazi" by a high school teacher after writing a pro-Mike Harris article for his school newspaper. Knowing the perception many have of their party, the book focuses on what must be done by the party to win, and keep, widespread public support.

Of course, there are some issues with Daifallah and Kheiriddin's vision of what Canadian politics should be. While "conservative" should hardly be considered the dirty word it has been, a new, conservative stranglehold on Canadian politics is hardly a good antidote for a Liberal stranglehold.

*Rescuing Canada's Right* begins by painting a disturbing picture of Canadian politics: one in which a corrupt party has been in control of the minds of the public, virtually unopposed. They portray the federal Liberal party as Canada's version of the Republicans; just as the Republicans have succeeded in demonizing liberalism in the American national consciousness, so have the Liberals demonized conservatives. Just as the Republicans have been maintaining a position of nearly unchallenged dominance in recent American politics, Canada's federal Liberals have enjoyed similar success over the past

RESCUING CANADA'S  
RIGHT  
BLUEPRINT FOR A CONSERVATIVE  
REVOLUTION

FOREWORD BY MARK STEYN

TASHA  
KHEIRIDDINADAM  
DAIFALLAH

hundred years.

*Rescuing Canada's Right* is first and foremost an action plan. It isn't meant to convince new supporters to join the cause, but rather to help those who are already convinced work toward turning the tables on the Liberals—a now partially completed task—but how to manage themselves afterwards.

The first part of the book makes its point rather succinctly: Canada's conservative parties, in their various forms, have helped make their own bed, and are now lying in it. While the Liberal party was solidifying its power, increasing state control over nearly anything and everything they could get their hands on and forging an ideological connection between their party and Canada's national identity, Canada's conservative parties were fighting amongst themselves and weakening their own support base. While the federal Liberal party was building a state-funded infrastructure to allow them to maintain a monopoly on power, Canada's conservatives squandered the opportunity to build similar privately funded infrastructures in the form of think tanks and publications. Now is their time to rebuild the foundation of the Conservative party and solidify public support.

The rest represents the real substance of *Rescuing Canada's Right*, explaining how Canada's conservatives can make amends with the media, reach out to new and young

Canadians, and reestablish a presence amongst academia. The book goes on to outline the policies conservatives should pursue in power and what goals for a term in office should be. Some of these would probably surprise many conservatives and non-conservatives alike, with a suggestion for both heterosexual and same-sex couples to have families being an example.

Of course, there are some issues with Daifallah and Kheiriddin's vision of what Canadian politics should be. While "conservative" should hardly be considered the dirty word it has been, a new, conservative stranglehold on Canadian politics is hardly a good antidote for a Liberal stranglehold. The ultimate analysis of *Rescuing Canada's Right* will likely be performed by the test of time, after Harper and the Conservatives show what they plan to do with their time in office. With a blueprint laid out and Conservatives in power, it will be what happens over the coming months and years that will show whether Stephen Harper stays PM or will hand power back over the Liberals.

Ultimately, the book comes down to wishful thinking on the part of Daifallah and Kheiriddin. While they have a decent enough outline for how they think the country should be run, what the Conservatives do with their time in charge is really what might rescue—or sink—Canada's right.

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# The museum of Q\*bert will be built one game at a time

Perhaps not to Q\*bert, but video games are increasingly falling into the realm of art and entertainment



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It's not easy pinning an age on the business, but it's safe to say that with the rapid growth taking place in the world of video games, it's somewhere in its uncomfortable teen years. This time in any young industry's life is filled with paralyzing self-doubt, alienating awkwardness and crushing insecurity—well, maybe that was just me—but gaming seems to be in a similar position as rock music was in the '80s: fighting for acceptance while under pressure from parent groups who blamed the medium for violence and other social ills among youth.

Amongst all this controversy, though, gaming as an entertainment medium has garnered plenty of mainstream momentum. Hell, the *Halo 2* launch was almost as big as the *Star Wars* prequels, and with about as much pay off. But, just like many entertainment mediums, a debate rages on about whether games—even the violent and contested ones—can transcend entertainment and ultimately be considered art.

In a recent interview with *Official Playstation Magazine*, Hideo Kojima—acclaimed creator of the *Metal Gear Solid* series—took an interesting stance on the subject: "I don't think they're art either, video games ... Art is the stuff you find in the museum, whether it be a painting or statue. What I'm doing, what videogame creators are doing, is running the museum—how do we light up things ... what I do ... is run the museum and also create the art that's displayed in the museum." So, under this view, games are a forum for various artistic elements to be used to create an entertaining product. Games are not art, he argues, because the intuitive and interactive nature of



**BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT'S A COMPUTER GENERATED HORSE** Games such as *Shadow of the Colossus* and *The Movies* both push the entertainment/art boundary. The experience of playing the game, though, might be the defining factor.

games makes them more like a canvas that can be painted on instead of a work of art in themselves.

This sounds like a viable opinion. Titles like *The Movies*—a game where players can, yes, make their own movies—are an example of games being used to make art, at least in rudimentary forms. Other games show such a user interactivity to various degrees, and there are indeed some games whose visual aesthetics give the impression that they were designed to be looked at as well as played.

But quite frankly, I think that idea is a bit skewed. When a game is being made, the creators have a vision of what the game should be, how it should look and where they want the story to go. While the players can decide in what way they will get from point A to point B, they're still inevitably following the path that the designers wanted them to go. The intrinsic interactivity of the medium doesn't take away from the

artistic integrity, but rather allows the gamer to interact with the designer's vision, and perhaps even understand it better.

Art, in almost all forms, is inherently interactive. Consider the supposed idea that in order for something to be art, it has to be non-interactive. What then would be the point? If no one was allowed to look upon the Mona Lisa—since viewing is how one would interact with a painting—would it still be considered a work of art? Could it be, if people could not gain any sort of insight or emotional significance from it? What if we were not allowed to listen to a fantastic opera? I think you get the idea. Such is trying to appreciate a game without actually playing it.

In fact, I would even go so far as to say that games could not be considered art without user input. Games, as art, must be a collaborative effort. The designer puts the elements of visual style, sound and game play

together in order to bring his vision to fruition. However, without user input and interaction, this creation would be no more than a virtual painting or movie. Games are collaborative art because the emotion and imagination being conveyed would be meaningless without a player to experience them. The playing of the game, then, is as much a part of the game being a work of art as are all of the other elements.

Sadly, this argument is not one with a simple conclusion. The gaming industry still has a long way to go before it gets past the puberty stage, and until it gains more acceptance as a serious medium for artists, it will have to make due with the social ambiguity and alienation that befalls many teens. Like these teens, however, games too will outgrow their awkwardness to find a more steady place amidst the world of entertainment, and hopefully, among the world of art, too.



## Seu Jorge

The Life Aquatic Studio Sessions  
Hollywood Records  
[www.seujorge.com](http://www.seujorge.com)

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

On the surface, it would be easy to hate Seu Jorge's collection of Bowie covers, mostly taken from 2004's excellent Wes Anderson movie, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*. For starters, it seems sort of like a cash grab off a popular element of a popular film. Further, it's pretty much just a bunch of covers with no real philosophical consideration underlying them; it's just Bowie, with no special attention paid to the themes of each song. On top of that, the prospect of slow, acoustic numbers of mostly hip-shaking rock and roll could easily devolve into something worthy of a Starbucks-only release.

It's a credit to how talented Jorge is, though, that this album works on almost every level. His slow, easy method on the guitar and deep, soulful voice go a long way to engendering these tunes to the listener, and even his slight accent adds a certain degree of charm to the proceedings. The way he sings it, you're almost entirely convinced that "Queen Bitch" really should be a bossa nova-y acoustic track, or that "Changes" works best with less bravado and more pensiveness.

Jorge works best when he's taking the energy of the originals and putting it through his own filter, particularly the jangly but breezy cover of "Starman" and his funky but subdued take on "Suffragette City." The lone original, a bouncy little tribute to his fictional crew mates called "Team Zissou," also shows a knack for writing a pretty catchy tune, but this is really all about the covers, and it works from front to back. Kudos to you, Seu Jorge.



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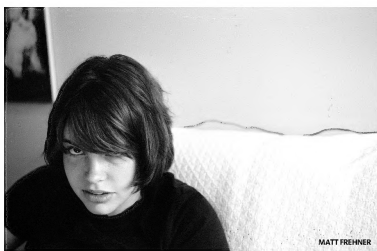
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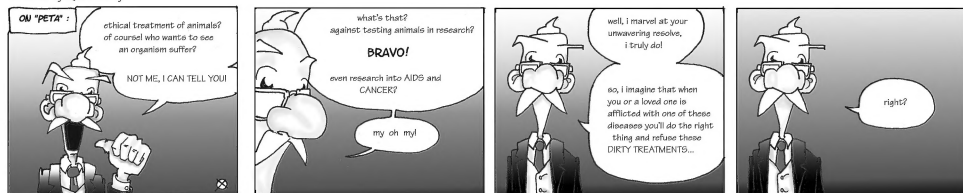
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